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# THE MUNCIE TIMES

VOL. 10, No. 13

ALSO SERVING ANDERSON, MARION, RICHMOND AND NEW CASTLE COMMUNITIES

JUNE 29, 2001

## Despite Atlanta loss, Muncie vows to try again for All-America City honors

BY T.S. KUMBULA

After a tiring 11-hour Sunday bus ride from Atlanta to Muncie, local delegates to the National Civic League Top 10 All-American City awards returned home defeated, but unconquered and unbowed.

Muncie, one of 30 cities and counties contending for 10 positions as All-America City winners, was a top 30 finalist. However, it was not among this year's winners, announced during an Atlanta awards ceremony.

Still the 37 people on the returning bus were treated like conquering heroes when Muncie Mayor Dan Canan met the bus and provided a police escort into the city. Canan had been present in Atlanta on Friday afternoon when Muncie made its presentation before 12 All-America City judges. Altogether 68 Munsonians drove, flew or rode the bus to

Atlanta to be present as the city made a bid for All-America City honors. Among them was Molly Flodder, executive director of TEAMwork for Quality, the sponsoring agency.

"I'm still tired from the bus ride. But I believe this was a wonderful opportunity for many people from our community to collaborate. I believe many good things came out of it. It was a very collaborative effort. Many people from many different backgrounds came together to work together," Flodder said.

"I don't think anyone thinks we lost because we were up for Top 10 honors. It was an honor and an opportunity to be among the top 30 finalists from whom the Top 10 winners were chosen. So we have a reason to celebrate.

"During the trip, there was a lot of camaraderie. We learned a lot about our community and about each other. These are things we



Muncie delegation has reason to celebrate ... still.

probably would not have learned if we had not been together on that trip. People made relationships that are going to last. They learned about each other and about how to work together. Those

things will last and will help us in city building and community building."

Flodder said no decision had been made about whether to try for All-America City honors again next year.

But, she said, the consensus seems to be that the city should try again in 2002.

"When the mayor met us with a police escort as our bus

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## Northside's Reese wins state's History Teacher honors

BY TARA CARTER

Vernon Reese, a Northside (Muncie) Middle School history teacher for 13 years, was named the 2001 Indiana History Day State Teacher of the Year.

He was also nominated for the National H.D. Richard Farrell Teacher of Merit award.

Reese received his award at the Indiana Historical Bureau 21st Year State Winner's Reception at the Children's Museum of Indianapolis earlier this month.

Gov. Frank O'Bannon, Pamela J. Bennett, director of the Indiana Historical Bureau, many teachers,

state winners and others attended the ceremony.

Indiana History Day is an annual event held at various schools throughout Indiana. This year, 2,400 students participated, of whom 400 were selected to participate nationally. Eighty of those students were from Northside.

The students are responsible for presenting themes or events in history. This year's theme was "Frontiers in History." The students presented their projects in four categories: performance, media/documentary, exhibit or an historical paper.

Reese has been

involved with the event for 7 years. He has been the department chair and in charge of the event for the past 3 years.

Although Reese has put a lot of energy into the program, he said that he didn't think that he would be receiving an award for his dedication.

"This is really a big surprise and an honor to me," he said. "This award means so much. But it's not for myself. It's for the students, the accomplishments they've made and the look on their faces. For me, it's just for the kids."

"I love history, I love working with them and

researching material. Even though there are other teachers working with them, they look to me for those answers. That feels good." Between 1966 and 1974, Reese received his bachelor's degree in foreign languages and his master's in American history from Ball State University. He has been teaching for 31 years.

Before going to Northside, he was a teacher at Storer Elementary School and the old Wilson Junior High School.

Reese said that it was an easy decision for him to

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Vernon Reese, Indiana State History Day Teacher of the Year.